

# Crime & Justice News

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On every business day, Criminal Justice Journalists (CJJ) provides a summary of the nation's top crime and justice news stories with Internet links, if any. Crime & Justice News is being provided by CJJ with the support of the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, its Center on Media, Crime and Justice, the Ford Foundation, and the National Criminal Justice Association. The news digest is edited by Ted Gest and David Krajicek.

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### **Incarceration Cuts Men's Annual Pay 40%: Study**

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Serving time reduces hourly wages for men by about 11 percent, annual employment by 9 weeks, and annual earnings by 40 percent, says a new report from the Pew Center on the States. The report says that by age 48, a typical former inmate will have earned \$179,000 less than if he had ever been incarcerated. Incarceration depresses the total earnings of white males by 2 percent, of Hispanic males by 6 percent, and of black males by 9 percent.

The report, "Collateral Costs: Incarceration's Effect on Economic Mobility, " was based on research by Bruce Western of Harvard's Kennedy School and Becky Pettit of the University of Washington. It was jointly authored by the Economic Mobility Project and the Public Safety Performance Project of The Pew Charitable Trusts. The report made several recommendations, including proactively reconnecting former inmates to the labor market through education and training, job search, and placement support and follow-up services to help former inmates stay employed. It also endorsed capping the percent of an offenders' income subject to deductions for unpaid debts (such as court-ordered fines and fees), and expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit to include non-custodial, low-income parents.

[Pew Center on the States](#)

### **Technology Credited For Some Of Drop In Property-Crime Reports**

Reported property crime is at a 20-year low despite the sour economy, a trend police credit in part to better technology that helps identify patterns of crime in particular neighborhoods, reports USA Today. The FBI compiled 9.3 million property crime reports last year, down from a high of 13 million in 1991. Growing use of technology once accessible only to a few large agencies allows real-time analyses of burglaries, petty thefts, and car thefts. Departments can redeploy officers to "hot spots" to stop potential crime sprees.

Declines in both property and violent-crime reports surprise some analysts, who expected that high unemployment and cuts to police departments would spur increases in crime. In a survey of 23 major and midsized cities that Carnegie-Mellon University criminologist Alfred Blumstein has tracked for five years, murder declined in 19 of the cities in 2009, while robbery was down in 21. Richard Rosenfeld, president of the American Society of Criminology, says policing strategies generally have a "limited" impact on crime. He says crime rates could have softened because the recent financial downturn was not accompanied by high inflation.

[USA Today](#)

### **Murders Headed Back Up In NYC After All-Time Low Last Year**

The number of people wounded or killed by gunfire is up in New York City, sending waves of fear through some dangerous neighborhoods, says the New York Daily News. Police statistics through the first nine months of the year show the number of murders has climbed 13.2 percent from the same period last year. There were 341 murders at this point last year compared with 386 through Sunday. The uptick comes after a year in which the city recorded 466 - the fewest since police began keeping track in 1963.

In the 75th Precinct in Brooklyn, Cyncerae Pough, 27, says, "Every night all I hear is cop cars and ambulances. I don't come out of my house if I don't have to." The number of people shot citywide has gone up 4.5 percent from a year ago, from 1,315 to 1,374.

[New York Daily News](#)

### **MD Judge Tosses Charges Against Man For Taping His Traffic Stop**

In a ruling that could make it easier for citizens to record police officers in Maryland, a judge ruled Monday that state police and prosecutors were wrong to arrest and charge a man for taping his own traffic stop and posting it on the Internet, reports the Baltimore Sun. Judge Emory A. Plitt Jr.'s ruling helps clarify the state's wiretap law and makes it clear that police officers enjoy little expectation of privacy as they perform their duties. "Those of us who are public officials and are entrusted with the power of the state are ultimately accountable to the public," Plitt wrote. "When we exercise that power in a public forum, we should not expect our activity to be shielded from public scrutiny." Plitt threw out four counts of the grand jury indictment against Anthony Graber dealing with recordings he made with a helmet-mounted camera and posted to YouTube after he was stopped by a trooper in an unmarked car on an Interstate 95 off-ramp. The judge left intact traffic violations that include speeding and reckless and negligent driving. Plitt

cited the videotaped recording of the Rodney King beating in Los Angeles and the explosion of "rapid fire information technology" to note that virtually anyone in a public place should expect their actions could be recorded and broadcast. He wrote that Graber's encounter "took place on a public highway in full view of the public. Under such circumstances, I cannot, by any stretch, conclude that the troopers had any reasonable expectation of privacy in their conversation with the defendant."

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[Baltimore Sun](#)

**Chicago Plans First Police Entrance Exam In 4 Years; College Debated**

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Chicago will hold its first police entrance exam in four years to ease a severe manpower shortage -- amid demands that applicants no longer be required to complete at least two years of college, reports the Chicago Sun-Times. Alderman Anthony Beale, chairman of the City Council's Police Committee, wants to "level the playing field" for minorities to increase diversity in the ranks at a time when a two-year hiring slowdown has left the police department more than 2,300 officers-a-day short of authorized strength.

"A lot of minorities can't afford to go to college. A lot of minorities go into the trades or into the military. Why should they be excluded?" Beale said. "We need to level the playing field by doing away with the college part and coming up with a new formula. If a person is 24 or 25, they're at a maturity level where they can make solid decisions. Why not take that in place of college? The goal is get more minorities and streamline the process." The college requirement was imposed in 1997 in response to a corruption scandal that saw seven tactical officers charged with extorting nearly \$66,000 from undercover agents they thought were drug dealers. Former Police Superintendent Terry Hillard flirted with the idea of boosting the requirement to four years of college, but backed off after encountering resistance from African-American aldermen.

[Chicago Sun-Times](#)

**California Approves Medical Paroles, Scales Back Jail Releases**

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California prisons may release comatose and physically incapacitated inmates on medical parole under a measure approved by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger that is expected to save California at least \$46 million annually, reports the Los Angeles Times. He also signed a scaled-back early release program at county jail.

Schwarzenegger said the medical parole bill includes a screening process to make sure public safety is not jeopardized by the early release of inmates, many of whom are guarded 24 hours a day even though they are confined to hospital beds. Thirty-two

inmates are likely to be immediate candidates for medical parole. They include 21 housed in nursing homes or hospitals at a cost of about \$5,800 a day. On the early release of county jail inmates, some law enforcement officials had complained that offenders were flooding the streets, causing public safety concerns. The new law reduces the good-time/work-time credits earned by county jail inmates from one-half to one-third for those convicted of misdemeanors, so inmates will stay behind bars longer.

[Los Angeles Times](#)

### **High Court To Review Police Warrantless Entry In Drug Case**

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The U.S. Supreme Court will review a case in which the Kentucky Supreme Court ruled against a warrantless police entry into the apartment of a drug suspect, saying that police officers created "exigent circumstances" that they then used to justify their entering without a warrant. The police action at the premises of Hollis Deshaun King, said the state court, did not occur when officers were in hot pursuit of a fleeing suspect.

An officer gave two justifications for entering the apartment without a warrant: the odor of marijuana, and the possible destruction of evidence based on the sound of movement inside the apartment, said the Kentucky court. It concluded that "odor alone is generally an insufficient basis for the warrantless search of a home based on imminent destruction of evidence." The court added that "it was reasonably foreseeable that knocking on the apartment door and announcing 'police, after having smelled marijuana emanating from the apartment, would create the exigent circumstance relied upon, i .e. destruction of evidence."

[Scotusblog.com/Kentucky Supreme Court](http://Scotusblog.com/Kentucky Supreme Court)

### **San Diego County Plans Public E-Mail Notification On Sex Offenders**

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E-mails could soon land in San Diego County residents' inboxes alerting them when the state has updated its listings of registered sex offenders in their neighborhoods, says the San Diego Union-Tribune. County supervisors are moving forward with a one-year pilot program that would notify subscribers by e-mail when there has been change to the state's Megan's Law website regarding local sex offenders, about 4,000 of whom live in San Diego County. About 500 of those sex offenders are supervised.

The e-mails would include a link to the website that lists where registered sex offenders are living and other information. The program is expected to cost about \$20,000 to set up and about \$2,400 to operate each year. State law limits how much detailed information could be included in the alerts. The county is asking the state to allow details on registered sex offenders to be sent in the e-mails, such as home addresses. Supervisor Bill Horn said that perhaps this system could have prevented the murders of local teenagers Chelsea King and Amber Dubois. A registered sex offender is serving a life prison term for the crimes. Notifying residents of sex offenders' names, photos, addresses and offense record is prohibited by state law unless "there's evidence to show this particular offender represents a specific threat," said Greg Thompson of the county Sheriff's department.

[San Diego Union-Tribune](#)

### **NYC Police Don't Testify On Housing Stop, Question & Frisk Policy**

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A New York City Council hearing on the police department's use of its controversial "stop, question and frisk" policy in public housing became a one-sided affair yesterday after police and housing officials declined to testify, the New York Times reports. Officials with both agencies cited pending federal litigation surrounding the policy in deciding not to appear.

Council Speaker Christine Quinn and other members were critical of both agencies but focused their pique on the police. Residents, lawyers and advocates blasted both agencies, too. One housing tenant, Marquis Jenkins, 27, said getting stopped had become a sort of "rite of passage" for young men of color growing up in the developments. Officers may temporarily detain anyone they believe may be engaging in criminal activity, and conduct a search if the person is believed to be carrying a weapon.

[New York Times](#)

### **Boston Reeling From Four Killings, Including Mother And Infant**

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Boston's civic leaders and clergy faced a bank of cameras again yesterday to decry another unspeakable crime, pleading for help solving an attack so callous it left a two-year-old boy dying in his dead mother's arms, reports the Boston Globe. They tried to rally their city to fight back against a tide of wanton violence this year that has struck down 14-year-old youths and seen a pizza deliveryman lured to his death in an abandoned house.

The four killings early yesterday morning resonated across the city. The death of the toddler pushed the reaction beyond outrage, as elected officials and ministers struggled to make sense of such a depraved act of violence. "For someone to feel like they can shoot a [] child and the child's mother is just reprehensible to me. Absolutely reprehensible," said the Rev. Jeffrey Brown of the Boston TenPoint Coalition, a group of clergy working to break the "culture of violence" that grips some neighborhoods. "People do not have a right to do this. This is not something we should allow in our communities any longer." District Attorney Daniel Conley pressed for help with the investigation, saying that "in light of these horrible facts, silence is not a moral option."

[Boston Globe](#)

### **Data Show Most College Campuses Are Safe Places: Fox**

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Despite some widely publicized incidents of campus violence, college campuses are generally safe, says Northeastern University criminologist James Alan Fox, writing in the Boston Globe. Based on reports submitted to the U.S. Department of Education under the Clery Act, in 2008, there were 11 homicides, 2,418 forcible rapes, 1,390 robberies and 2,078 aggravated assaults reported by 2,677 four-year colleges with a combined enrollment of just over 12 million. Overall, that translates to a rate per 100,000 students that is a small fraction of the corresponding U.S. figure drawn from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports.

The comparative safety of campuses holds even after taking into consideration the fact that, with their lengthy winter and summer breaks, college students are typically on campus for not much more than half the year. In terms of relative risk, rape stands out as the largest among campus perils largely owing to the particular age range of college

students and the extent of drinking and partying that characterizes many schools. Aside from reasonable security measures (a well-trained campus police force, adequate lighting and access control for buildings), excessive attention to the risk of campus crime can be counter-productive, Fox says, advancing "the overblown image of students as walking targets, thereby reinforcing fears, rather than calming them."

[Boston Globe](#)

### **TX Student Suicide Raises Campus Guns-For-Self-Defense Issue**

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The suicide of University of Texas student Colton Tooley, 19, on Tuesday, with an AK-47 has raised again the issue of allowing students to have guns for self-defense, says the Houston Chronicle. Daniel Crocker of Students for Concealed Carry on Campus, said, "It's fortunate that the gunman took only his own life and injured nobody else, but students and faculty deserve options beyond relying on the altruism - or poor aim of a madman."

State Sen. Rodney Ellis said guns on campus could create confusion for police in a situation such as Tuesday's. "Allowing guns on campus will do little to improve the safety of students and could, in fact, make dangerous situations that much more deadly by creating confusion for law enforcement," he said. Tooley terrorized the campus for more than 30 minutes by firing four shots into the air before running into a library, dashing up a stairwell screaming, and taking his own life. The shooting caused a campus lockdown as differing witness descriptions prompted a search for a second shooter. Helicopters circled overhead. Classes were canceled for the day. When police finally allowed people to leave campus, students had to do so with their hands in the air.

[Houston Chronicle](#)